

# 2006 Fact Sheet

Services Provided to Children Enrolled in  
North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start

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North Dakota Head Start

## Services Provided to Children Enrolled in North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start Highlights

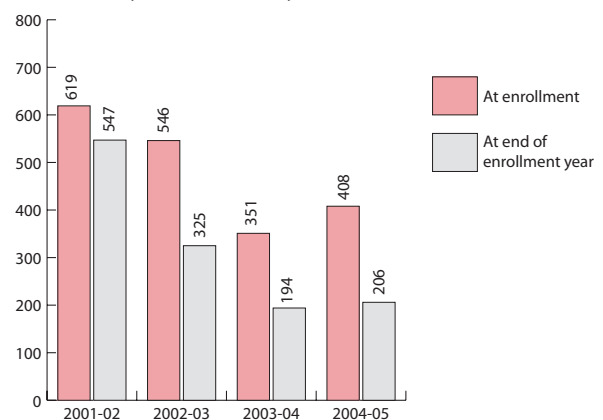
- Head Start children are gaining access to health insurance
- Most Head Start children are up-to-date on health screening and receive needed treatment
- Pregnant women in Early Head Start are receiving important health services
- Mental health consultations and referrals are increasing
- Speech/language impairment is most commonly diagnosed disability among Head Start children



## Head Start Children are Gaining Access to Health Insurance

A significant number of children are entering North Dakota Head Start already insured while many others are gaining access to health insurance while enrolled. The number of uninsured children at time of enrollment dropped from 619 in 2001-02 to 351 in 2003-04, and rose to 408 in 2004-05. Nearly three times as many children gained access to health insurance while enrolled in Head Start during 2004-05 (202 children) than did so in 2001-02 (72 children).

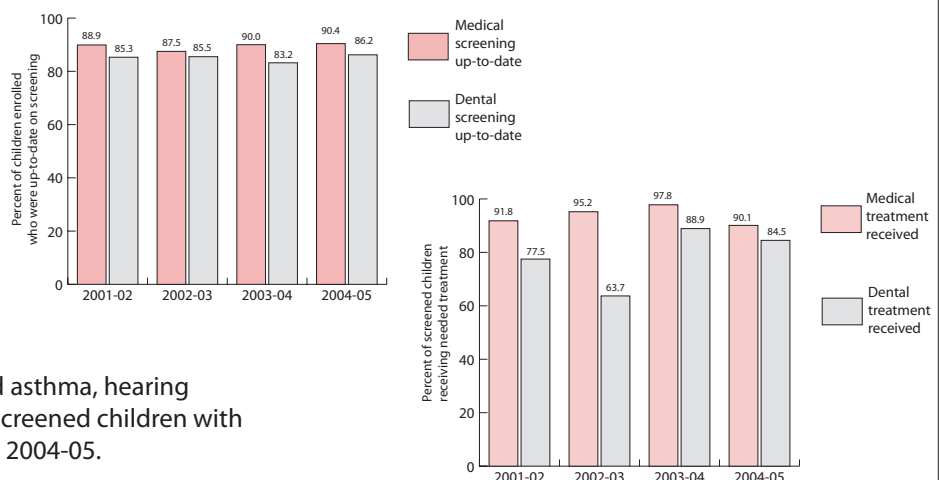
Figure 1. Uninsured Children Enrolled in North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start by Time of Year, 2001-2005



## Most Head Start Children are Up-to-Date on Health Screening and Receive Needed Treatment

Most children enrolled in North Dakota Head Start are up-to-date on medical and dental screening. Of those children screened, 27.7% needed medical treatment in 2004-05. The vast majority (90.1%) of children diagnosed with medical needs received treatment in 2004-05. Their most common medical problems included asthma, hearing difficulties, and vision problems. Among screened children with dental needs, 84.5% received treatment in 2004-05.

Figure 2. Percent of Children Enrolled in North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start Who Were Up-to-Date on Medical/Dental Screening and Percent of Screened Children Who Received Needed Treatment, 2001-2005



### Data Source:

Data obtained from Head Start Program Information Reports, 2000-2005. Data in this fact sheet include pregnant women enrolled in Early Head Start programs.

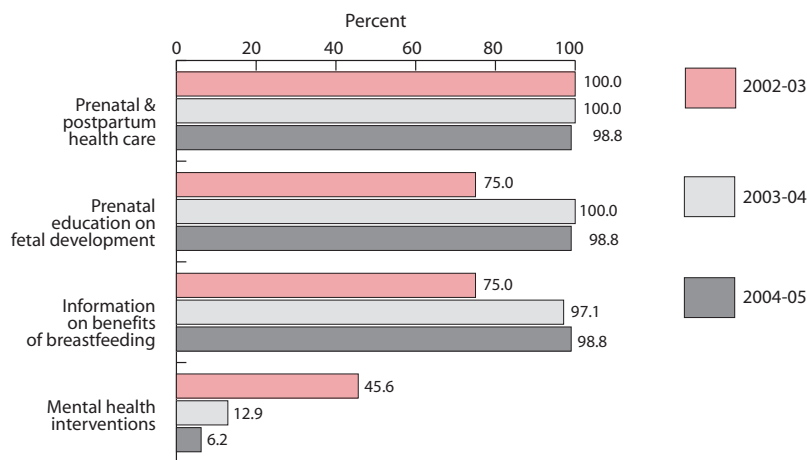
### Our Mission

The goal of Head Start is to increase the social competence of children in low-income families and children with disabilities, and to improve their chances for school success.

## Pregnant Women in Early Head Start are Receiving Important Health Services

In 2002-03, there were 68 pregnant women enrolled in North Dakota Early Head Start programs. This number rose to 81 women in 2004-05. In each of these years, almost all enrolled women received prenatal and postpartum health care services. In addition, 75.0% or more received prenatal education on fetal development and information on the benefits of breastfeeding. In contrast, the percentage of women receiving mental health interventions and follow-up declined dramatically from 45.6% of women in 2002-03 to 6.2% of women in 2004-05.

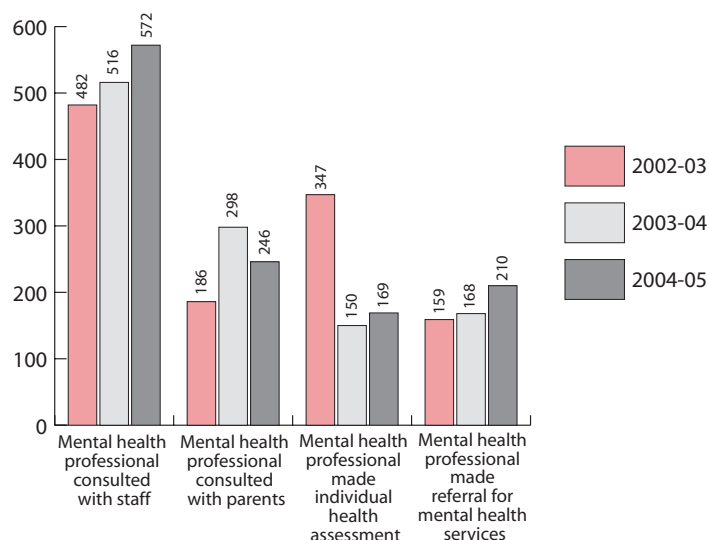
Figure 3. Percent of Pregnant Women Enrolled in North Dakota Early Head Start by Type of Health Services Received, 2002-2005



## Mental Health Consultations and Referrals are Increasing

Over the past several years, North Dakota Head Start staff have consulted with mental health professionals about an increasing number of children. In 2002-03, mental health professionals consulted with staff about 482 children, or 12.9% of Head Start enrollees. By 2004-05, mental health professionals consulted with staff about 572 children, or 14.7% of all enrollees. In 2002-03, mental health professionals made referrals for 4.2% of Head Start children. By 2004-05, 5.4% of Head Start children were referred for mental health services.

Figure 4. Children Enrolled in North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start by Type of Mental Health Service Received, 2002-2005



## Speech/Language Impairment is Most Commonly Diagnosed Disability Among Head Start Children

While most North Dakota Head Start children are not diagnosed as having a disability, speech/language impairment is the most commonly diagnosed disability among Head Start pupils, affecting 9.2% of enrollees in 2002-03 and 9.7% of enrollees in 2004-05. Developmental delay is the second most commonly diagnosed disability for Head Start children.

Figure 5. Children Enrolled in North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start by Diagnosed Disability, 2002-2005

